



# ARCS Pittsburgh: Board Brief

December 2015 “If we knew what we were doing, we wouldn’t call it research, would we?” Einstein

## December 17, 2015 Board Meeting Focus on our Website and our Communications Strategy

ARCS Pittsburgh Founder and former National ARCS President Jeanne Berdik provided the board with training on key features (and valuable resource materials) of our growing website, [arcsfoundation.org](http://arcsfoundation.org). Anyone can view the first ARCS National Annual Report by going to this site; if interested in what’s happening in the Pittsburgh Chapter, click on “Chapters Across the US” and then on “Pittsburgh.” Active members have access to more information by logging in. This past membership renewal period saw a majority of members renewing with the online option. We encourage all members to become familiar with our website. If you need help in doing so, contact Beth Wainwright, [bethwainwright@gmail.com](mailto:bethwainwright@gmail.com).

The board discussed our communications strategies, including revisiting our twice-a-year newsletters. Enthusiasm for our more frequent and shorter Board Briefs seems to be filling a need for newsletter-like communications. Our chapter will begin exploring production of a once-a-year Annual Report that has broader utility than our former newsletter format.

## ARCS Educational Programs

Our **Alzheimer’s Panel Presentation and Discussion** was well attended by members and guests. The mortality rate due to this disease has increased dramatically, more so than any other disease. Greater emphasis on earlier detection is now taking place using technologies developed at the University of Pittsburgh. We extend our thanks



to the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer’s Research Center, to Leslie Dunn (ARCS Chair of Scholar Relations) for organizing the event, and to the scientists who spoke: Drs. Ann Cohen, Jennifer Lingler, and Beth Snitz.



Our “own” Dr. Jeanne VanBriesen, former ARCS Scholar and a founder of ARCS Pittsburgh, now an award-winning Professor of Civil and



Environmental Engineering at CMU, presented the **Café Scientifique lecture** at the Carnegie Science Center. She explained how the decisions we all make affect our watersheds, which in turn change our

ecology and drinking water. “Everybody is in a watershed. Everywhere that exists is in a watershed.” And what we do in these watersheds, how and where we build our houses, transportation systems, factories and farm are choices that affect our watersheds. Listen to her full lecture on the podcast:

<http://podcastingcsc.podbean.com/e/cafe-scientifique-rain-rivers-and-resources-how-watersheds-change-drinking-water>.

**DON’T MISS THE JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> National Aviary Event: a not-to-be-missed, behind-the-scenes tour by Dr. Pilar Fish, 10:00am-Noon. Contact Jennifer Martin [jlmartin76@me.com](mailto:jlmartin76@me.com)**

**Finance and Fund Development:** We have been profitable for the first five months of the year, which means that our member donations have outpaced our expenses. However, our profit this year is less than what we had at the same time last year. The number of new students we can fund next year is based entirely on the funds we receive from our members and donors, so we urge you to give ARCS Pittsburgh a year-end gift, if at all possible. One-hundred-percent of it will go directly to scholar awards.

**Membership:** We are working on using our website-database to track membership more accurately. ARCS Pittsburgh has a membership drive in July, but provides a grace period of several months to members who haven't submitted their dues (unlike many other chapters). Thus our membership list evolves throughout the year (with new and renewing and returning members). Being able to track over about 120 members coming and going requires more sophisticated tools. Our website database can help, as well as prompt payment of dues and online renewal.

**Nominating:** The committee is looking for members interested in giving even small amounts of time in 2016-2017, especially to: communications by assisting with scheduling and web-page communication and educational programs. All committee members receive the support of the broader board. Please contact Annie Rivers (Chair) at [anniesrivers@yahoo.com](mailto:anniesrivers@yahoo.com) to learn about becoming more connected to our energetic and talented women-volunteer leaders. A slate of all committees and officer positions will be presented to members prior to the May Annual meeting vote.

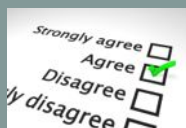
**Scholar Relations:** Due to a change in how CMU's administration processes awards like ARCS, our CMU scholars' first semester payments were delayed. We hope that no one has been badly inconvenienced and have been assured next semester will work more smoothly. Scholars: contact Leslie Dunn (Scholar Relations) [dunnlo@upmc.edu](mailto:dunnlo@upmc.edu) with questions.

**Scholar Showcase:** The event space we had secured was canceled very recently, putting us back into the search for an appropriate space for the annual Showcase sometime mid March. Our event chairs are hard at work and will be sending to our members requests for save-the-dates soon. We have a NEW CONCEPT for the Showcase that will excite members to attend and bring friends!

**Penn State:** Our Penn State member-liaisons (Sue Breedlove and Thea Stover) remain active with our 5 Penn State Scholars. Sue met with students at Penn State recently and all had a great time. See one of our Penn State Scholars, Laura Radville, featured in ARCS National Annual Report ([arcfoundation.org](http://arcfoundation.org) scroll down the page and click on the annual report – terrific photo and report on her research by Ann Fromm, a member of ARCS Pittsburgh Communications Committee).

#### IMPORTANT DATE UPDATES

**Note:** often event times and locations are solidified closer to the dates of each event so please check your email/invitations for the most up-to-date information.



**January 18, 2016 DEADLINE for ARCS National Survey.** If ARCS Pittsburgh has 50 members complete the survey, we will have strong information for improving our effectiveness. PLEASE respond to the survey (a reminder will be sent January 4).

**January 12, Tuesday, 10AM at the Aviary.** Entrance fee. From Canaries to Condors! Special tour and lecture designed for ARCS to learn about our country's largest and only National Aviary.

**February Social Gathering with Scholars.** Evening event.

**March Scholar Showcase (later March).** Exciting new venue with a novel way of interacting with our scholars! A community-wide event for anyone enthusiastic about cutting edge science and technology.

**April Organ Transplant month.** Program at University of Pittsburgh related to their transplant work. Likely focus: implications of 3-D copying for transplants!

**April-May Planning Event for all Members**

**May Annual Membership meeting**